

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of creating annotations for a plurality of different type data objects manipulated by a user, comprising:

receiving, from the user, a selected role in which the user has chosen to act;

receiving a request from the user to create an annotation for a data object, wherein the data object is identified by a set of identifying parameters;

presenting, to the user, a plurality of annotation structures based on the selected role and the set of identifying parameters, wherein each annotation structure defines one or more annotation fields;

receiving, from the user, a selection of one of the plurality of annotation structures;

generating a graphical user interface allowing entry of the one or more annotation fields;

creating an index based on the set of identifying parameters; and

creating an annotation record comprising the index and information entered, via the graphical user interface, for the one or more annotation fields.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing the annotation record in an annotation store separate from the annotated data object.

14 - 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising generating a graphical user interface for displaying annotation information associated with the data object, wherein the annotation information presented to the user in the graphical user interface is dependent on the selected role.

18 - 28. (Cancelled)